

20 January 2026



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carers

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge how, as a school community, we have all remained calm and respectful in handling yesterday's difficult situation. I also want to update you on the support we have been providing for anyone affected and how you might continue this at home.

As we informed you yesterday, the incident is completely unconnected with Smestow Academy. West Midlands Police have now informed us that, while the death is currently unexplained, the circumstances behind it pose no risk to our pupils and staff. Nevertheless, we know some people may be affected by the extraordinary turn of events.

Today, we have had support available for pupils in school from our Mental Health Team, with colleagues from Reflexions also supporting pupils in the Success Centre. Our Staff have also been offered specialist support. This morning, we have met with members of the Wolverhampton City Council's Educational Psychology Service to give us information on how to support any young people who have been affected. I thought I would share with you their thoughts. We certainly found it supportive and you may find it useful.

Your child may want to **talk** to you about the situation. If they do, give information and answer questions accurately in words they will understand, including saying you don't know if you are unsure.

Children react to things differently. **Not talking** about something for a period of time is normal for some. They may suddenly talk about the investigation after a period of time. Be prepared to listen so that they can talk through their feelings.

If your child appears unsettled, try to maintain **familiar routines** and structures. These will provide a sense of security.

Sometimes, an event such as this may reawaken emotional reactions to **previous experiences**. Children's behaviour may regress – behaviours children previously showed may re-appear, for example, thumb sucking, sleep disturbance may occur. This is normal and will fade in time.

We are mindful that some pupils may require ongoing support over the coming months and our Pupil Support Hub will be able to offer this. If you feel that your child requires further support, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of House at school.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



Smestow Academy
Windmill Crescent
Castlecroft
Wolverhampton
WV3 8HU
West Midlands



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01902 539500

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